

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-16, 19-21, and 30-40 are pending in the application. The Examiner's indication that claims 11-15 are allowed and that claims 8 and 21 contain allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged. Claims 17 and 18 are canceled by this Amendment. Claims 30-40 are added by this Amendment.

The Applicants first note that no initialed copy of the Information Disclosure Statement filed with the application on February 26, 2002 was forwarded with the current Office action. The Applicants respectfully request a copy of the initialed Information Disclosure Statement for their records.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 6, 7, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bergen (US 4,262,559). The Examiner points to the process illustrated in Figs. 3-5. The Examiner has also rejected claims 4,5, 9, and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bergen.

The Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to recite, among other things, forming a bevel on the first edge, the bevel defining a cutting edge in a first location on the first edge with respect to the top and bottom surfaces; and repositioning the cutting edge of the bevel on the first edge to a second location on the first edge with respect to the top and bottom surfaces. Bergen does not teach or suggest repositioning the cutting edge of a bevel from a first location on a first edge of a blank to a second location on the first edge of the blank. Rather, Bergen teaches forming a bevel on an edge of the blade and then bending the entire beveled edge of the blade with respect to the remainder of the blade. The cutting edge is not repositioned on the beveled edge at all.

For this and other reasons not discussed herein, amended claim 1 and dependent claims 2-10, 30 and 31 are allowable.

Dependent claim 2 has been amended for clarity. Dependent claims 6-8 have been amended to provide proper antecedent basis.

New dependent claims 30 and 31 depend from claim 1 and include additional patentable subject matter. No new matter has been added.

The Applicants have also amended independent claim 16 in a manner similar to independent claim 1. Additionally, the Applicants have eliminated the forming step.

For similar reasons to those set forth above with respect to claim 1, amended independent claim 16 and dependent claims 19-21 and 32-35 are allowable.

New dependent claims 32-35 depend from claim 16 and include additional patentable subject matter. No new matter has been added.

New independent claim 36 and dependent claims 37-40 have also been added to define additional patentable subject matter. No new matter has been added.

For the reasons set forth above, entry of the Amendment and allowance of claims 1-10, 16, 19-21, and 30-40, in addition to the previous allowance of claims 11-15, are respectfully requested.

The undersigned is available for telephone consultation at any time.

Respectfully submitted,



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